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## BOOK REVIEWS



### BOOKS FOR INVALIDS

A MOST deliciously quaint little book is "Emmy Low." We might almost say that a smile goes with every page as we follow the small mortal through her experiences of the every-day world in which *everything* is so queer and strange to a child.

Is it heresy to say that a little more of this half-humorous and wholly sympathetic insight where children are concerned would do more to assist children to their great-little problems than all the "child-study" books in the universe? Do get it, and see if you do not "find life better living," as an enthusiastic father of four model children said of it.

It is an impossibility to keep up with the new books. A glance over the publishers' pages of the periodicals is tantalizing in the extreme. One does not know where to begin, and sometimes in sheer despair turns to the old books, which one finds soothing through familiarity, like other old friends.

Among these, two really delightful books are Frances Anne Kemble's "Recollections of a Girlhood" and "Recollections of Later Life."

These cover a period from early in the nineteenth century (she was born in 1809) to 1848.

They take us all over Europe and into our own backwoods America in the days when slavery was one of the accepted facts of the national life.

The brilliant young English actress met, it is safe to say, every man and woman of note both here and abroad.

With her vivid personality—the inherited Siddons charm—she made friends by the score, and it is of these people who made the history, the art, the politics, the literature, and the science of her time that she writes in a manner that makes them live anew for us.

It is amazing to see how much fits into our own life of to-day, most interesting to follow up the subsequent careers of many of those mentioned.

Incidentally, her own character grows before us, charming, versatile, noble, generous, her quick temper balanced by an unflinching sense of humor. It would be almost impossible to find in these pages a single criticism or personality one would wish unsaid.

A good quality of the book for those who cannot read or listen long at a time, and who are fatigued by the strain of remembering "where we left off" is that it can be opened almost at random and the reader lose nothing.

L. D. DOCK.



ACCORDING to the small colored boy's reply when asked his age: "If you want to know when I was born, I don't know; but if you go by the fun I've had, I'm mos' a hundred."